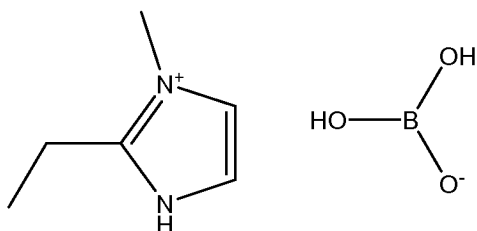


**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are now in the application. By this Response, claim 9 has been amended to correct a clerical error Applicants discovered in preparing this response, but not to limit the claim scope. Support for the amendment to claim 9 is found at page 10, lines 27-37, of Applicants' disclosure. Claims 1-8 and 13-20 have previously been withdrawn by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

During a phone call made by Examiner Havlin to Applicants' representative, an Election of Species Requirement was made for the Species of formula  $[Q^+][BR'n(OR'')m^-]$  recited in independent claim 9. Applicants herewith elect ethylmethylimidazolium dihydrogenborate, i.e., the compound having the structure:



, which is obtained according to example 6 of the barium method set forth on page 21, lines 32-40, of Applicants' disclosure. Specifically,  $[Q^+]$  is ethylmethylimidazolium cation,  $n = 0$ ,  $OR'' = OH$ , and  $m = 3$ . Applicants note that the negative charge in  $[BR'n(OR'')m^-]$  indicates that one OH from among the  $OR''$  is deprotonated.

If the Examiner believes an interview may be helpful in any way to further prosecution of this application, the undersigned is available at the telephone number set forth below.

Application No.: 10/587,248  
Response to December 19, 2008 Office Action  
Response dated January 26, 2009

Docket No.: 13156-00067-US1

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 13156-00067-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 26, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Georg M. Hasselmann/  
Georg M. Hasselmann

Registration No.: 62,324  
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP  
1875 Eye Street, NW  
Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20006  
(202) 331-7111  
(202) 293-6229 (Fax)  
Attorney for Applicants